

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO

TOPIC Dessau Airfield

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 26 September to 9 October 1952

DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 17 November 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. Intensive air activity was observed at Dessau airfield on 26 September 1952 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. and between 7 and 11 p.m. Flying was still intensive on 27 September. Aircraft with air sleeves were also observed aloft. There was much flying throughout the day on 29 September. On 1 October, air activity was observed throughout the day and between 7 and 11 p.m. Five biplanes and 54 IL-10s were counted at the field. During the morning on 4 October, local flights were observed.¹

2. On 2 October, 17 shrapnelproof aircraft revetments, about 30 meters apart, were completed on the southwestern edge of the field. A small hangar, probably for one plane, was under construction near the ammunition dump on the northern edge of the field.² Six AA guns and a range finder were emplaced on the southeastern edge of the field. Five trucks were also observed.³

3. The following air activity was observed at the field between 5 and 9 October:

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5 October. Intensive flying.

Nine ground attack planes took off at 3:10 p.m. and landed at 4:37 p.m. Four biplanes were observed taking off at 5:55 p.m. They made low-level flights over Dessau and landed at 6:20 p.m.

8 October. Thirteen or 14 ground attack planes took off at 3:45 a.m. and landed at 4:10 a.m.

9 October. There was intensive flying after 7:30 a.m. The planes usually flew in formation at low level. At 2:30 p.m., a formation of 35 planes flew at low level over Dessau. A twin-engine plane flew over the town at 3:30 p.m. At the same time, five biplanes were observed. At 3:40 p.m., 32 ground attack planes with a white stripe around their fuselages were observed aloft. Aircraft with a blue stripe around their fuselages circled around the formation. The formation landed between 3:45 and 4:57 p.m.⁴

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4. At 11:50 p.m. on 8 October, a motor convoy stopped in front of the yeast factory in Dessau. Then ground attack planes flew over the convoy, the soldiers who had got out of their vehicles, hurried back to the vehicles and drove blacked out toward the brewery in Dessau.

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1. [] Comment. The observations confirm that Dessau airfield is still occupied by a ground attack regiment which is equipped with about 55 D-10s and some PO-2s.

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2. [] Comment. This information partially confirms the observations by another source who reported that three hangars, two with a length of about 50 meters and one with a length of about 30 meters were under construction on the northern edge of the field. [] It cannot be determined which information is correct.

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3. [] Comment. The emplacement, which is known from previous reports, is a light AA battery of six 37-mm guns. 25X1C

4. [] Comment. Between 8 and 15 October, a large scale exercise of the East German Army was held in the Dessau area. This exercise also involved fighter and ground attack units. From the present information, it is inferred that the ground attack regiment from Dessau participated in the exercise. [] the ground attack planes of all ground attack regiments. []

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